

fishing boat *Eureka*, 12 miles south of Maud's Landing in the preceding month.

On examination they proved to be specimens of the Runner (*Elagatis bipinnulatus*), a species new to the Western Australian list and apparently rare in Australian seas. The larger specimen measured 735 mm. (29 in.) in total length and weighed 5½ lb. The smaller was 665 mm. and weighed 4 lb. 4 oz. Both had only 5 spines in the anterior dorsal fin.

The species was first described in 1825 by the French naturalists Quoy and Gaimard from a specimen collected by them in New Guinea waters during Louis de Freycinet's voyage of discovery in the *Uranie* and *Physicienne*.

—L. GLAUERT, W.A. Museum, Perth.

Marsh Terns at Forrest.—On October 30, 1948, the Museum received a specimen of the Marsh Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) from Mr. W. S. Moodie, of Forrest, on the Nullabor Plain. In subsequent correspondence Mr. Moodie stated that residents agreed "that there were many flocks of hundreds if not thousands of birds flying over during the period October 12 to 26". The birds were flying in several directions so that it would seem that they were seeking a suitable locality in place of one they had left, presumably owing to deteriorating conditions. The specimen received at the Museum was a male, with testes slightly enlarged, but in non-breeding plumage. The under-parts were white; forehead white, speckled with black towards the crown, which was black slightly speckled with white. Length, in the flesh, 238 mm.; wing, 221 mm.; culmen, 29.5 mm.; tarsus, 23 mm.; tail, 81 mm.

—L. GLAUERT, W.A. Museum, Perth.

Use of Green Foliage for Nest Lining by *Podargus strigoides*.—A nest of a Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*), located in a York gum at Caron on August 22, 1948, was kept under intermittent observation until September 6, on which date the nest was found on the ground under the tree with the broken shell of one, or perhaps two, eggs. The nest, which was six inches in diameter and four inches deep, contained green foliage of the hop (*Dononaea inequifolia*) and dead foliage of the same sort which had probably been incorporated in the nest while fresh. The nearest shrub from which the foliage could have been taken was sixteen yards from the nest and there was an extensive hop thicket at a distance of forty yards. These shrubs were from one to nine feet high. Foliage could have been obtained by a bird resting on the ground.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Caron.

150th Anniversary of Capt. Vancouver's Burial.—The associations of Capt. George Vancouver with Western Australia were called to mind on May 18, when the 150th anniversary of the navigator's burial was marked by a tree-planting ceremony in the

chureyard of Petersham, Surrey. In the presence of about 300 visitors, including representatives of the Canadian government, the Lord Mayor of London (Sir Frederick Wells) planted a 5-ft. high specimen of the madrona (*Arbutus Menziesii*) supplied by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The madrona is native in western North America, from British Columbia to California, and is noteworthy as being the largest representative of the Ericaceae. Its name commemorates Archibald Menzies, surgeon and botanist to the expedition, who was the first of many botanists to visit and collect at King George's Sound.

On his return from the Pacific, Vancouver settled in Surrey, first at Richmond and then at the neighbouring village of Petersham, to complete the account of his voyage which was published in the year of his death, 1798, with the title, *A Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean and Round the World*. An account of King George's Sound is given in vol. 1, chapters 2 and 3 of this work.

—J. SOUSTER, Kew, Surrey, U.K.

A Strange "Ant-friend" Caterpillar.—Early in November, 1948 the Museum received a strange caterpillar found at Boyup Brook by a school-girl, Maureen Buttriss. The creature was shaped rather like a wood-louse, was about $\frac{3}{8}$ in. in length, had a corrugated surface and was coloured a rich blue, the summits of the folds being bright red. It would seem from previous observations that the moth lays its eggs upon some homopterous insect upon which the caterpillar feeds in its early stages. It then pupates and in due course emerges not as a moth but as another caterpillar which makes its way to an ants' nest, where it again feeds and duly pupates, in this case giving rise to an insignificant brown moth—a specimen of which was bred out at the Museum in 1941. A Cyclotornid moth with a similar life history was described by P. F. Dodd in north Queensland some 38 years ago. There is no mention in the literature of this family being found in any other part of the continent, outside of South-western Australia. The family contains only one described genus, *Cyclotorna*, to which our specimens probably belong though they have not yet been taxonomically studied. The Boyup Brook caterpillar was found in the nest of the well-known meat ant (*Iridomyrmex detectus*).

—L. GLAUERT, W.A. Museum, Perth.

An Enormous Ant Colony.—A colony of the gravelly meat ant *Iridomyrmex detectus* found on the way to the Cascades, near Gosnells, during the club excursion on September 5, 1948, was measured approximately and found to be of enormous size. The main body of the colony extended downhill in a south-eastward direction over a length of over 900 yards and had 17 mounds all connected by busy lines of workers. Lateral trails connected some of the main mounds with side mounds. In one case there was a side-mound 38 yards to the south-west, connected by trail to another mound 72 yards to the west, the latter in turn connected to a smaller mound 13 yards to the north-west. In another case the trail from the main